

federal government contracting

U.S. Small Business Administration SBA



Destination: *HUB*The HUBZone Program

Mariana Pardo
Director
HUBZone Program

August 26, 2015

What We'll Cover

- HUBZone - history and purpose
- Contract Types (benefits)
- Requirements
 - Certification
 - Keeping the certification
- Questions & Answers

Quick History – Why is this important?

 In 1996, U.S. Senator Christopher 'Kit' Bond, then Chairman of the Small Business Committee, crafts legislation to link preferences for award of Federal contracts to <u>small</u> businesses located in economically dormant and underserved areas, which he called HUBZones.

• JOBS promote long-term economic viability.

Program Purpose

- Provide Federal contracting assistance to qualified small business concerns located in <u>h</u>istorically <u>u</u>nderutilized <u>b</u>usiness zones (HUBZones) to:
 - Increase employment opportunities
 - Stimulate capital investment in those areas
 - Empower communities through economic leveraging and the "multiplier effect."

Contracting Vehicles

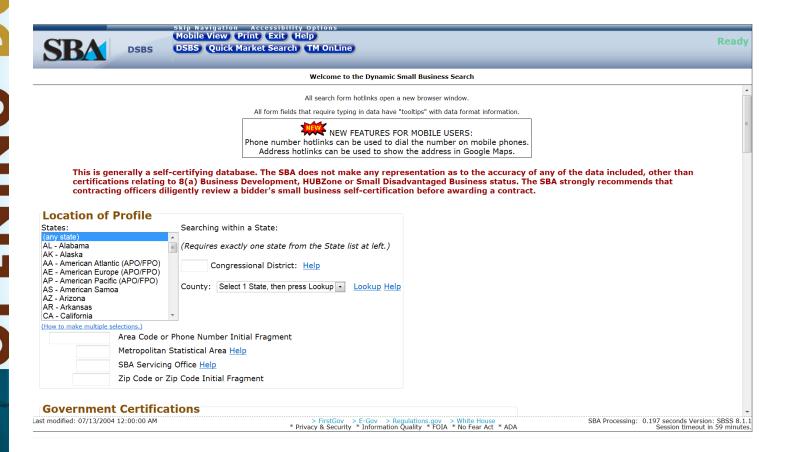
- Set-aside awards
- Sole source awards, and
- Awards through full and open competition after application of 10% price evaluation preference (PEP)
- Subcontracting Opportunities (attempt to maintain does not apply)

Federal Government-Wide Prime HUBZone Contracting Awards by Fiscal Year

•	FY 1999	Goal – 1%	Actual – not available
•	FY 2000	Goal – 1.5%	Actual – \$663.3 M (.33%
•	FY 2001	Goal – 2.0%	Actual - \$1.7 B (.72%)
•	FY 2002	Goal – 2.5%	Actual - \$1.7 B (.71%)
•	FY 2003	Goal – 3.0%	Actual – \$3.4 B (1.23%)
•	FY 2004	Goal – 3.0%	Actual – \$4.8 B (1.59%)
•	FY 2005	Goal – 3.0%	Actual – \$6.2 B (1.94%)
•	FY 2006	Goal – 3.0%	Actual – \$7.1 B (2.11%)
•	FY 2007	Goal – 3.0%	Actual – \$8.5 B (2.24%)
•	FY 2008	Goal – 3.0%	Actual - \$10.1 B (2.34%)
•	FY 2009	Goal – 3.0%	Actual – \$12.4 B (2.80%)
•	FY 2010	Goal – 3.0%	Actual – \$12 B (2.77%)
•	FY 2011	Goal – 3.0%	Actual – \$9.9 B (2.35%)
•	FY 2012	Goal – 3.0%	Actual – \$8.1B (2.01%)
•	FY 2013	Goal – 3.0%	Actual – \$6.2B (1.76%)
•	FY 2014	Goal – 3.0%	Actual – \$6.7B (1.82%)

contracti

How to Locate HUBZone contractors DSBS

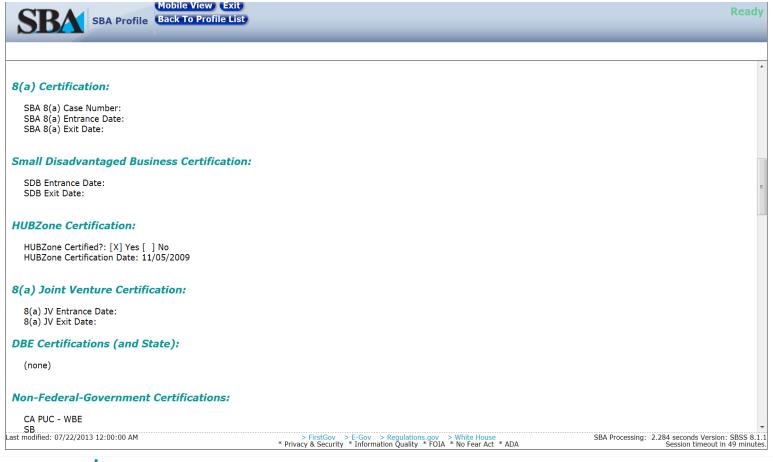


DSBS – how certification is displayed

- Each firm's DSBS profile has two fields relevant to HUBZone certification. "HUBZone Certified?" will indicate by a YES or NO whether the firm in question is currently certified.
 - A marked YES for this question on a company's profile is official evidence that the firm is certified.
- An approval or recertification letter is NOT valid evidence that a firm is currently certified, since a firm may have been decertified since the notice was issued.
- The other relevant field is the "HUBZone Certification date."
 - The date given indicates only the initial date of certification and does not reflect the dates of any recertification process, which is internal to SBA.

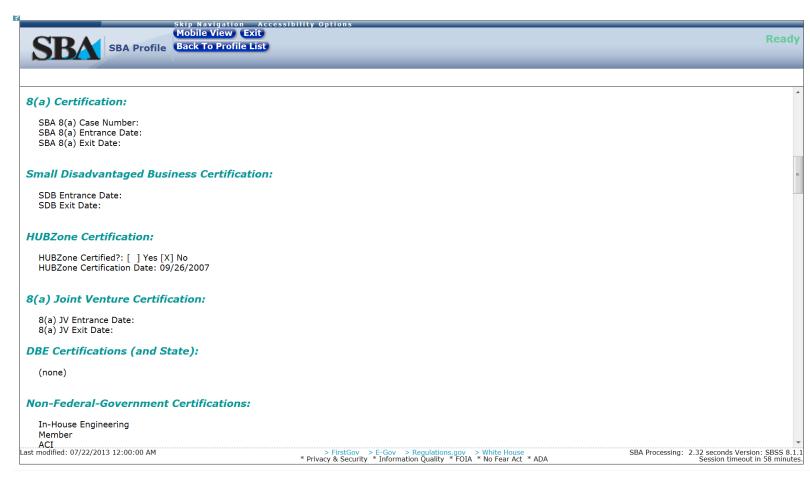
overnment contracting

DSBS – certification display



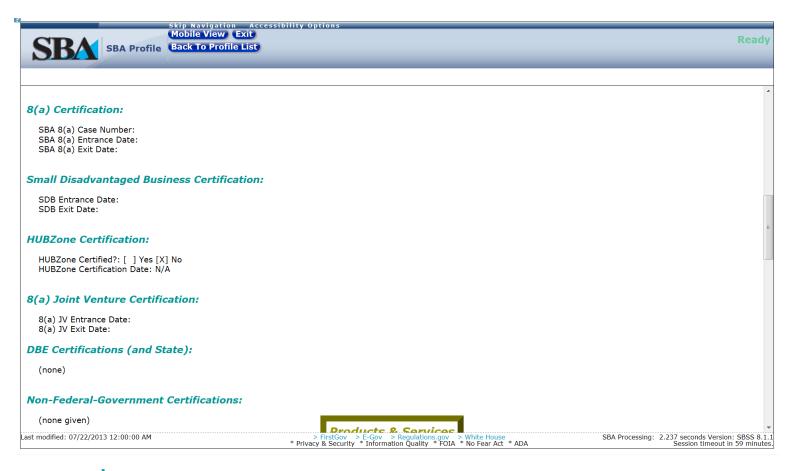
overnment contracting

DSBS – example of decertified SBC



overnment contracting

DSBS – example of non-HUBZone SBC



Requirements to bid on HUBZone contract 13 CFR 126.601

- At the time a qualified HUBZone SBC submits its initial offer, and where applicable its final offer, on a specific HUBZone contract, it must certify to the CO that:
 - It is a qualified HUBZone SBC that appears on SBA's List;
 - There has been **no material change** in its circumstances since the date of certification shown on the List that could affect its HUBZone eligibility;
 - It is small under the NAICS code assigned to the procurement; and
 - Represent that it will "attempt to maintain" the required percentage of employees who are HUBZone residents during the performance of a HUBZone contract.
- Attempt to maintain means making substantive and documented efforts such as written offers of employment, published advertisements seeking employees, and attendance at job fairs. 13 CFR 126.103

HUBZone Certification Requirements (13 CFR 126.200)

- Small business (by SBA standards),
- 2. Directly and unconditionally owned and controlled by at least 51% U.S. citizens or a community development corporation, an agricultural cooperative, or an Indian tribe,
- 3. At least 35% of its employees must reside in a HUBZone, and
- 4. Principal office must be located within a designated HUBZone

Note: Different rules apply for Tribal Governments, Alaska Native Corporations, Community Development Corporations and small agricultural cooperatives. These are delineated in <u>Title 13 of the Code of Federal Regulations</u>, Part 126

What is a **HUBZ**one?

- Historically Underutilized Business Zone
- HUBZone areas, obviously have:
 - low median household incomes
 - high unemployment
 - high poverty

(see "Designations" section in website's FAQs)

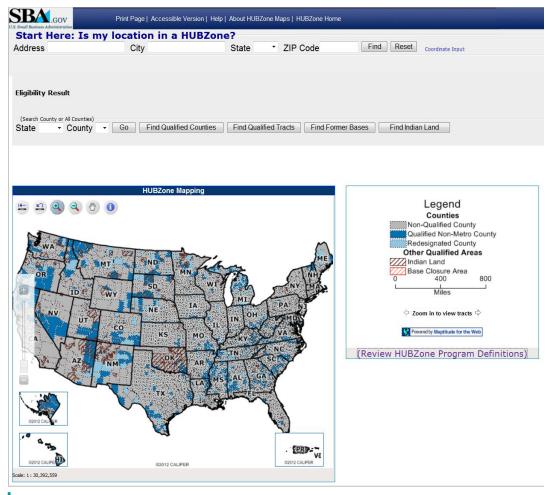
There are 4 kinds of HUBZones

- Qualified Nonmetropolitan County* (include
 Difficult Development Areas outside CONUS)
- A Qualified Census Tract*
- An Indian Land
- A Qualified Base Closure Area
- *When a county or tract loses its HUBZone qualification, it is redesignated for three years.

<u>Areas change</u>: becoming newly designated, redesignated, and losing the designation after the redesignation period ends

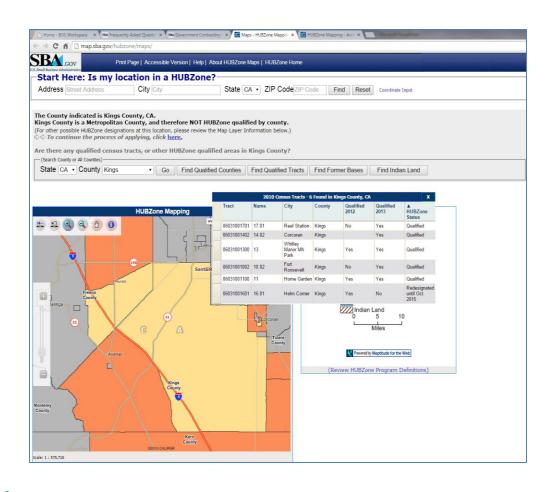
government contracting

HUBZone Maps



government contracting

HUBZone areas in Kings County



Why is it important to learn how to evaluate the principal office and the 35% employee HUBZone residency requirements?

Because 85% of firms who are declined for certification or decertified from the Program are declined/decertified because of

- failing to meet either the 35% requirement, or
- > the principal office requirement, or
- both

Employee definition: 13 CFR 126.103

Employee means all individuals employed on a full-time, part-time, or other basis, so long as that individual works a minimum of 40 hours per month.

- Includes employees:
 - obtained from a temporary employee agency, leasing concern, or through a union agreement
 - > co-employed pursuant to a professional employer organization agreement
- SBA will consider the totality of the circumstances, including criteria used by the IRS for Federal income tax purposes and those set forth in SBA's <u>Size Policy Statement No. 1</u>, in determining whether individuals are employees of a concern.
- Volunteers (i.e., individuals who receive deferred compensation or no compensation, including no in-kind compensation, for work performed) are not considered employees.
- If an individual has an ownership interest in and works for the HUBZone SBC a minimum of 40 hours per month, that owner is considered an employee regardless of whether or not the individual receives compensation.
- **❖** When evaluating the minimum 35% employee HUBZone residency requirement: do not pay attention to where employee works − <u>focus only on where the employee lives</u>.
- ***** When evaluating the principal office requirement: do not pay attention to where employee lives focus only on where the employee works.

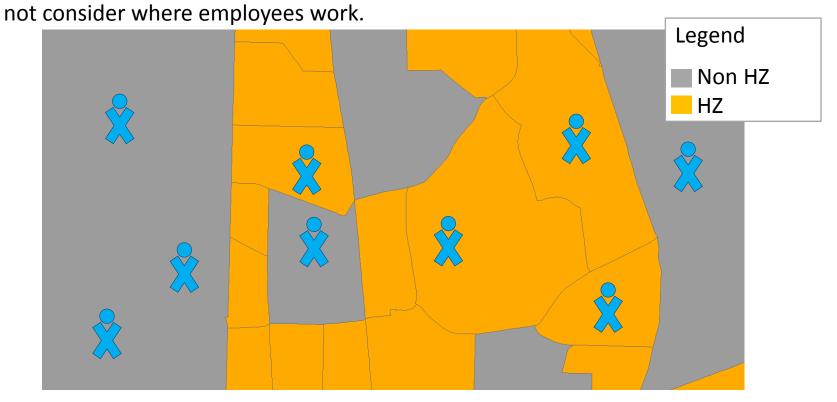
35% Employee HUBZone Residency

Company, Inc. is a small IT services company with 9 employees. Their headquarters is located in an urban area that is not HUBZone, according to the map. The two owners and an administrative support person spend the majority of their work hours there. Across the street, in a qualified census tract, is a government facility where 6 engineers perform contract specific work. The owners and the admin all live in a HUBZone a few miles away. There are 6 employees at the government site. One of them is part time and works only 20 hours every week. Only one of the six employees who works at the government site lives in a HUBZone.

Does this company meet the 35% requirement?

Answer

When dealing with the evaluation of the 35% employee residency requirement, do



Does this firm meet the 35% requirement? YES

Principal Office definition: 13 CFR 126.103

- Location where the greatest number of the concern's employees at any one location perform their work.
- For businesses in service or construction
 - exclude the concern's employees who perform the majority of their work at job-site locations to fulfill specific contract obligations.
- ❖ When evaluating the principal office requirement: do not pay attention to where employee lives – <u>focus only on</u> <u>where the employee works</u>.
- When evaluating the minimum 35% employee HUBZone residency requirement: do not pay attention to where employee works – focus only on where the employee lives.

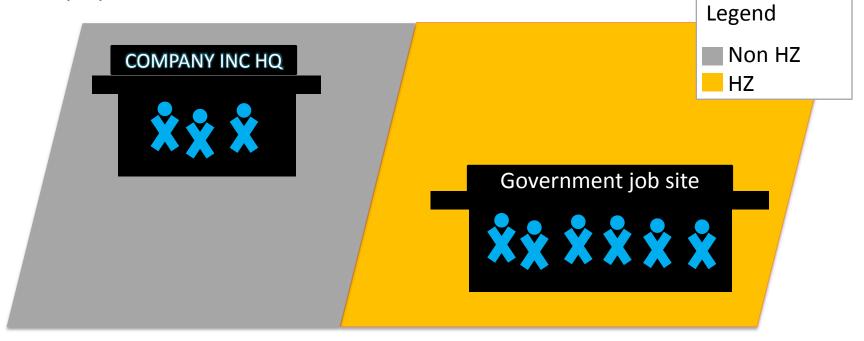
Principal Office (example)

Company, Inc. is a small IT services company with 9 employees. Their headquarters is located in an urban area that is not HUBZone, according to the map. The two owners and an administrative support person spend the majority of their work hours there. Across the street, in a qualified census tract, is a government facility where 6 engineers perform contract specific work. The owners and the admin all live in a HUBZone a few miles away. There are 6 employees at the government site. One of them is part time and works only 20 hours every week. Only one of the six employees who works at the government site lives in a HUBZone.

Does this company meet the Principal Office requirement?

Answer

When dealing with the evaluation of the principal office, do not consider where employees live.



Does this firm meet the PO requirement? **NO**

Can a HUBZone firm have offices or facilities in another HUBZone or outside a HUBZone?

Yes – as long as the office that has the greatest number of employee is in a HUBZone. (13 CFR 126.207)

Examples:

- 1. An IT consulting firm with 100 employees has 2 offices, one in a HUBZone and the other, the HQ's is not in a HUBZone. 90 employees work in job sites; 4 employees work at the HQ's and 6 work in the HUBZone office. Firm meets the principal office requirement.
- 2. An IT consulting firm with 100 employees has 2 offices, one in a HUBZone and the other, the HQ's is not in a HUBZone. 90 employees work in job sites; 6 employees work at the HQ's and 4 work in the HUBZone office. Firm does not meet the principal office requirement.
- 3. An IT consulting firm with 100 employees has 2 offices, one in a HUBZone and the other, the HQ's is not in a HUBZone. 90 employees work in job sites; 5 employees work at the HQ's and 5 work in the HUBZone office. Firm does not meet the principal office requirement because no greatest number work in the HUBZone location.

<u>Bonus question</u>: Must the employees who work in the HUBZone office reside in a HUBZone?

Answer to Bonus Question: Must the employees who work in the HUBZone principal office reside in a HUBZone?

- No because this is not a regulatory requirement
- Remember:
 - When evaluating the principal office do not pay attention to where the employees live <u>focus</u>
 <u>only on where the employees work.</u>
 - When evaluating the minimum 35% employee
 HUBZone residency requirement: do not pay attention to where employee works <u>focus</u>
 <u>only on where the employee lives</u>.

government contracti

Maintaining HUBZone Certification – best practices

- 1. Follow the regulatory requirements
 - □ Notify SBA of any material change that may affect the firm's HUBZone status.
 - a. Change in the firm's ownership
 - b. Change in the firm's business structure
 - c. Change in the firm's principal office
 - d. Change in the firm's 35% HUBZone residency status
 - ☐ Recertify HUBZone status every 3 years
 - Although there is no limit to the length of time a firm may qualify as a HUBZone firm, the certification is not a lifetime certification. Every HUBZone firm must recertify every three years to SBA, indicating that it remains a "qualified" HUBZone SBC, 13 CFR § 126.500
 - NOTE: SBA initiates the recertification action.

Maintaining HUBZone Certification – best practices (cont'd)

- 2. Incorporate maintaining HUBZone certification into the business plan.
 - Assign someone in the firm to monitor and document compliance
 - Keep HUBZone employee percentage higher than 35%. This is risky.
 Have some cushion, say, around 60% or more.
 - Maintain a list of potential hires in case one of your HUBZone residents quits. This way you do not have to fall out of compliance and risk decertification.
 - Watch the HUBZone map for changes; sign up for email alerts at <u>Subscribe to HUBZone News</u>. If the principal office is in an area that is redesignated, the firm has 3 years to come up with another way to meet the PO requirement.
 - Create a "protest file" when bidding on a HUBZone solicitation to ensure the proper evidence is at hand to prove compliance in the event of a HUBZone status protest.

HUBZone Information



- Map landing page
- Understanding
 - Mini-primers
 - Webinars
- Applying
 - Size standards Tool
 - 35% and principal office calculator
 - FAQ / Certification
 - Application Timeline
 - Application Guide
 - Supporting docs
- Maintaining
- Protests
- Detecting Fraud, Waste & Abuse
- FAQs



government contracting business

HUBZone Information

Resources & Tools	Resources & Tools
HUBZone Website	Applying for Certification
35% and PO calculator tool	Maintaining Certification
HUBZone maps / designations	SBA Learning Center
<u>Supporting Documentation</u>	SBA Local Assistance
HUBZone Regulations 13 CFR – Part 126	SBA Size Standards

For more information . . .

- Visit the HUBZone website at http://www.sba.gov/hubzone for the latest information, including information about:
 - HUBZone Office Hours eligibility
 conversations via a toll free number on
 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.
 ET
- Contact the helpdesk at <u>HUBZone@sba.gov</u>

government contracting

THANK YOU!

Mariana Pardo
Director
HUBZone Program

mariana.pardo@sba.gov